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DRAFT

Honorable William V. Roth
Chairman, Committee on Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The recruitment and retention of qualified physicians for the Central Intelligence Agency medical support program has become increasingly difficult over the past few years as the incomes of physicians in the private sector have far outstripped the incomes of physicians who have entered government service. In addition to the difficulties due to the disparity in income between government physicians and private physicians, the Central Intelligence Agency must face the additional problems inherent in persuading physicians to serve abroad under sometimes hazardous conditions. Although the Agency often benefits from the willingness of highly motivated, patriotic physicians to serve their country despite the loss of income, our ability to offer physicians special comparability allowances has, up to now, been extremely important in our efforts to recruit and retain physicians.

In 1978, Congress enacted the Federal Physician Comparability Allowance Act (FPCAA), 5 U.S.C. 5948, in an attempt to alleviate the problem of physician recruitment and retention by authorizing comparability allowances for certain periods to government physicians who entered into service agreements with a federal agency prior to 30 September 1979. In 1979, recognizing the continued need for comparability allowances to aid recruitment and retention of physicians, Congress extended the authority for entering into service agreements to 30 September 1981. This authority recently expired. On 30 July 1981, Senator Charles McC. Mathias introduced S. 1551 to extend the period for entering into service agreements under the FPCAA to 30 September 1982. Although this Bill will only provide a temporary solution to the problem, I urge your Committee to act upon it swiftly.

DRAFT

The Office of Management and Budget has advised that there is no objection to the views expressed in this letter from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

B. R. INMAN
Admiral, U. S. Navy
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

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